Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

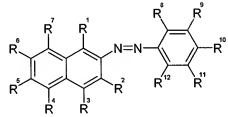
Listing of Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown below:

1. (Previously Presented) An aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension, comprising:

a gas black,

an azo compound of the formula 1



(1)

wherein R^1 to R^{12} may be the same or different and consist of hydrogen, hydrophilic or hydrophobic groups, acceptor or donor substituents or parts of aliphatic, aromatic or heteroaromatic, acyclic, cyclic or polycyclic systems having acceptor, donor, hydrophilic or hydrophobic groups,

and water.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 1, wherein the gas black has a content of volatile constituents (950°C) of < 21 wt.%, a BET surface area of from 80 to 350 m^2/g, a primary particle size of from 8 to 40 nm and a DBP number of from 40 to 200 ml/100 g.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 1, wherein the gas black is present in the amount of < 30 wt.%.

4. (Previously Presented) The aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 1, wherein the azo compound of the formula 1 is present in an amount of < 5 wt.%.

5. (Previously Presented) The aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 1, wherein the azo compound of the formula 1 contains less than 30 wt.% impurity.

6. (Previously Presented) The aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 1, wherein the azo compound of the formula 1 contains less than 10 wt.% salt.

7. (Previously Presented) The aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 1, wherein the azo compound is Acid Black 1, Mordant Green 17 or Mordant Blue 13.

8. (Previously Presented) The aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 7, wherein the azo compound Acid Black 1, Mordant Green 17 or Mordant Blue 13 contains less than 30 wt.% impurity and less than 10 wt.% salt.

9. (Previously Presented) The aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 1, further comprising a biocide, wetting agent and/or additive.

10. (Previously Presented)The aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 9, wherein the wetting agent is a fatty alcohol ethoxylate, polyacrylic acid or/and derivatives thereof, copolymer containing acrylic acid, acrylic acid derivatives, styrenes, styrene derivatives and/or polyethers, lignosulfonate, alkylbenzenesulfonate, naphthalenesulfonic acid derivative, copolymer containing maleic anhydride and/or maleic acid derivatives, or combinations of the mentioned wetting agents.

11. (Previously Presented)The aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 9, wherein the wetting agent is present from 0 to 1 wt.%.

12. (Previously Presented) The aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 9, wherein the additive is an alcohol, glycol, heterocyclic compound or glycerol.

13. (Previously Presented) The aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 9, wherein the additive is present in an amount of < 25 wt.%.

14. (Previously Presented) A process for the production of the aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 1, comprising dispersing the gas black and the azo compound of the formula 1 in water.

15. (Currently Amended) The aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 14, further comprising dispersing by using bead mills, ultrasonic devices, ~~high-pressure~~ homogenisers, microfluidizers[[,]] or ~~high speed mixer~~ mixers.

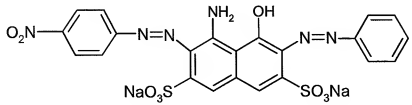
16. (Previously Presented) A composition of matter selected from the group consisting of an ink, ink-jet ink, surface coating and colored printing ink containing the aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 1.

17. (Previously Presented) An ink composition containing the aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 1.

18. (Previously Presented) The aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 1, wherein the substituents R^1 to R^{12} can be phenyl, naphthyl, pyrrolyl, pyridinyl, furyl, puryl, -$COOR^{13}$, -$CO\text{-}R^{13}$, -CN, -SO_2R^{13} or -SO_2OR^{13}, wherein R^{13} = H, alkali metal cation, ammonium, alkyl, aryl, ω-carboxyalkyl, $HSO_3\text{-}C_xH_y$-, $H_2N\text{-}C_xH_y$, $H_2N\text{-}SO_2\text{-}C_xH_y$- (x =1-20; y = 1-45), donor substituents, that are alkyl, aryl groups, OR^{14}, $N(R^{14})_2$, SR^{14} or $P(R^{14})_2$, wherein R^{14} = H, alkyl, aryl or functionalised alkyl or aryl, oligomers or polymers of the form $-(O\text{-}R^{14})_y\text{-}OR^{15}$, wherein R^{15} = H, alkyl or aryl.

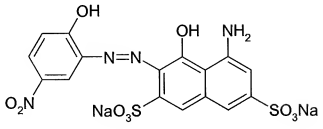
19. (Previously Presented) The aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 1, wherein the azo compound is

Acid Black 1 (C.I. 20470)



or

Mordant Green 17 (C.I. 17225)



or

Mordant Blue 13 (C.I. 16680)